

Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute: Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. WAIVER OF CERTAIN NATURALIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NGUYEN QUY AN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the inability of Nguyen Quy An to meet the requirements of section 316 of the Immigration and Nationality Act that relate to having the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, and residence and physical presence in the United States, if otherwise qualified he shall be considered eligible for naturalization and, upon filing an application for naturalization and being administered the oath of renunciation and allegiance pursuant to section 337 of such Act, shall be naturalized as a citizen of the United States.

(b) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEE.—Subsection (a) shall apply only if the application for naturalization is filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we are often called upon to enact sweeping legislation that will have a substantial impact on millions of people. However, I think most of us realize that many times we can take smaller, more limited actions that will have an enormous effect on the lives of only a few. Often, it is these actions that are most fulfilling and most meaningful.

Today, I am hopeful that the House will pass legislation that exemplifies such an endeavor, and which also honors a man whose bravery saved the lives of American servicemen, and cost him dearly in his service to our country. This bill, H.R. 1087, will secure the immigration status of Major Nguyen Quy An by allowing him to apply for U.S. citizenship without waiting an additional 5 years. However, in actuality I believe it is we who would be honored by the naturalization of this courageous man.

Major An is a genuine hero who, as a pilot in South Vietnam's elite "King Bee" helicopter group, flew numerous combat missions in support of U.S. troops during the Vietnam war. In one particularly notable act of heroism, he risked his own life in order to save the lives of four American servicemen. On January 17, 1969, he led a combined American-South Vietnamese flight to insert American Special Forces troops deep into an enemy-held, sniper-infested jungle along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos. After one of the U.S. Army helicopters in the flight was hit by enemy fire, Major An maneuvered his ship to a position next to his American comrades and led them to a clearing in the jungle. With complete disregard for his own safety, and under incessant, intense enemy fire, he landed his helicopter next to the crippled American ship and waited for the four crew members to make their way to him.

Major An was cited for the Silver Star and the U.S. Government awarded him the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism in combat

for his courage in this incident. He later lost his arms when he was severely burned after his helicopter was downed in a similar U.S. combat rescue mission.

Our Government, recognizing the heroism and service that he has given to the United States, granted Major An "humanitarian parole" so that he and his daughter could come to the United States in 1994. They were granted a 1-year extension of their humanitarian visas last December, but H.R. 1087 would allow Major An to quickly become an American citizen, and to promptly file for his daughter to become a permanent U.S. resident. A similar bill has been introduced in the Senate by Senator BENNETT JOHNSTON and has been cosponsored by former Senator Dole, as well as Senators BENNETT, HATFIELD, NICKLES, SHELBY, SPECTER, BROWN, and INOUE. It is my understanding that the Senate is prepared to pass our bill quickly once we send it to them.

Without passage of this bill, Major An will not be able to resolve his immigration status and could ultimately be forced to return to Vietnam where he would face an uncertain future. Even if he is allowed to remain here, the uncertainty of his status prevents him from obtaining employment, and creates terrible concern and anguish for him and his daughter.

Private bills are certainly an extreme measure, and should be given close scrutiny. However, in this case, I believe a private bill is clearly warranted. The Immigration and Naturalization Service has found that, other than enactment of this bill, Major An and his daughter have no other options. The House Judiciary Committee unanimously approved this measure by voice vote.

This country owes Major An a debt of gratitude. He is a decorated war veteran who risked his own life to save the lives of four American servicemen, and lost his arms during a U.S. combat mission. The least that our country can do to honor his service to America is to secure his place here in America, and to help him to quickly become a citizen of his adopted country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill for the relief of Nguyen Quy An."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GAIL E. DOBERT

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 4025) for the relief of the estate of Gail E. Dobert.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

COMMENDING OPERATION SAIL

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 64) to commend Oper-

ation Sail for its advancement of brotherhood among nations, its continuing commemoration of the history of the United States, and its nurturing of young cadets through training in seamanship, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Ms. DELAURO. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] for an explanation of the legislation.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this resolution commends Operation Sail for its advancement of international cooperation among nations, for its continuing commemoration of the history of the United States and its contribution to the training of young cadets in the skills of seamanship.

The bill encourages all Americans and citizens of the world to join in the celebration of the 224th birthday of the United States.

Equally important, it encourages continued American participation in the international tall ship community and in tall ship events across the United States and the world.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my Republican colleague's request to pass Senate Joint Resolution 64 by unanimous consent request. Senate Joint Resolution 64 is a bipartisan resolution honoring the Operation Sail Organization and OpSail 2000, an international gathering of tall ships that will take place in New York Harbor to celebrate the 224th birthday of the United States and to welcome the new millennium.

This glorious event follows the tradition of the previous OpSail events: OpSail '76 which celebrated the bicentennial of the Nation; OpSail '86 which celebrated the centennial of the Statue of Liberty; and, OpSail '92 which celebrated the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of North America. Operation Sail has worked in cooperation with every President of the United States since John F. Kennedy, and all OpSail events have been endorsed by the President of the United States at that time.

OpSail 2000 is expected to be the largest gathering of tall ships in history, and it will foster international good will and the advancement of brotherhood among nations. In addition, OpSail 2000 will showcase the beautiful Connecticut coast of the Long Island Sound for all the world to see. We look forward to this exciting even of which all Americans can be proud.

Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. SHAYS].

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, just to add my voice to this resolution, it is truly bipartisan, Mr. DODD and Mr. D'AMATO in the Senate and others, and just to say that this is an exciting opportunity for this country.